



PRESS RELEASE

House National Security Committee

Floyd D. Spence, Chairman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 6, 1997

CONTACT: Maureen Cragin
Ryan Vaart
(202) 225-2539

SPENCE RESPONDS TO COHEN'S CALL FOR BRAC

"I am surprised by reports that Secretary Cohen may request two additional rounds of base closures. I frankly do not see how, or why, Congress would approve additional authority for the Administration to close more bases in light of the politics the President imposed upon the 1995 base closure process, a process that had been largely devoid of politics up until that time. So, until the controversy over the President's dismissal of the Base Closure Commission's recommendation to close Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, and McClellan Air Force Base, California, is resolved, strong bipartisan skepticism over the Administration's credibility on the issue is likely to persist.

"In addition, we all need to question the assumption that additional base closings will generate savings to address readiness and modernization funding shortfalls. The reality of on-going base closures is that the up-front costs, including huge bills for environmental cleanup, are enormous. At the same time, to the extent that any savings are ever realized, they won't be applicable to defense budget shortfalls for a generation."

#